

2 I Claim:

4 *Sub*  
6 1. A singles stick for holding the top edge of a tennis net at its regulation height above the ground for singles play, which comprises:

8 (a) a base and a staff which are slidably connected to one another such that the base and staff can be extended between an extended position and a collapsed position by sliding the base and staff relative to one another, wherein the base and staff have a combined length in the extended position to properly position the tennis net for singles play when the singles stick is installed between the top edge of the net and the ground, and wherein the base and staff have a combined length in the collapsed position which is shorter than the combined length of the base and staff in the extended position; and

18 (b) a lock for releasably holding the base and staff together in at least the extended position of the base and staff.

22 2. The singles stick of claim 1, wherein the base and staff are telescopically connected to one another.

24 3. The singles stick of claim 1, wherein the base has one end that is suited for engaging the ground, and the staff comprises an upper staff having a notch suited for engaging the top edge of the tennis net.

30 4. The singles stick of claim 3, wherein the base includes an enlarged foot for abutting against the ground.

32 5. The singles stick of claim 1, wherein the lock also releasably holds the base and staff in a fixed position in the collapsed position of the base and staff.



2 Sub 27 6. The singles stick of claim 5, wherein the lock com-  
4 prises a locking pin that may be inserted through various  
ones of spaced holes.

6 Sub 27 7. The singles stick of claim 6, wherein the locking  
8 pin is carried on a spring finger connected to one of the  
base and staff, the spring finger having a bias tending to  
10 engage the locking pin with one of the spaced holes when the  
one hole is aligned with the locking pin.

12 8. The singles stick of claim 6, wherein the locking  
pin is connected to one of the base and staff.

14 9. The singles stick of claim 1, wherein the base and  
16 staff have a combined length in the collapsed position which  
does not exceed approximately 30 inches.

18 Sub 27 10. The singles stick of claim 1, wherein the base and  
20 staff have a combined length in the collapsed position which  
is short enough to allow the singles stick to be stored in a  
22 tennis player's equipment bag that is sized to be slightly  
longer than a tennis racket.

24 Sub 27 11. A singles stick for holding the top edge of a  
26 tennis net at its regulation height above the ground for  
singles play, which comprises:

28 (a) a plurality of telescopically received sections  
including at least one first, hollow section into which a  
30 second section is telescopically received such that the  
first and second sections can be extended between an ex-  
32 tended orientation and a collapsed orientation by telescop-  
ing the first and second sections relative to one another,  
34 wherein the first and second sections have a combined length  
in the extended orientation to properly position the tennis  
36



1 net for singles play when the singles stick is installed be-  
2 tween the top edge of the net and the ground, and wherein  
3 the first and second sections have a combined length in the  
4 collapsed orientation which is shorter than the combined  
5 length of the first and second sections in the extended  
6 orientation; and

7 (b) a lock for releasably holding the base and staff  
8 together in at least the extended position of the base and  
9 staff.

10  
11 12. The singles stick of claim 11, wherein the singles  
12 stick is formed from only two telescoping sections compris-  
13 ing the first and second sections.

14  
15 13. The singles stick of claim 11, wherein the lock  
16 also releasably holds the first and second sections in a to-  
17 gether in the collapsed orientation of the first and second  
18 sections.

19  
20 14. The singles stick of claim 13, wherein the lock  
21 can be released and relocked by hand.

22  
23 15. A singles stick for raising the top edge of a  
24 tennis net from its otherwise undisturbed position to con-  
25 vert a tennis net from doubles to regulation singles play,  
26 which comprises:

27 a base that abuts against the ground when the singles  
28 stick is installed and an upper staff that engages against  
29 the top edge of the net when the singles stick is installed,  
30 wherein the base and the upper staff are telescopically con-  
31 nected to one another to allow the base and staff to be  
32 placed in an extended position and a collapsed position with  
33 the base and staff remaining connected together as they move  
34 between the extended and collapsed positions, wherein the  
35 base and staff have a combined length in the extended posi-  
36



tion which is sufficient to raise the top edge of the net from the position that edge has during doubles play.

16. The singles stick of claim 15, wherein the combined length of the base and staff in the collapsed position is sufficient to allow the singles stick to be stored in an equipment bag of the type used to carry tennis rackets and the like.

17. The singles stick of claim 15, wherein the base is hollow over most of its length, and wherein the staff is telescopically received within the base to allow the staff to be mostly retracted into the base in the collapsed position.

18. The singles stick of claim 17, wherein a small portion of the staff still extends out of the base in the collapsed position to allow the staff to be gripped and pulled up out of the base into the extended position.

19. The singles stick of claim 15, further including a lock for releasably holding the base and staff together in at least the extended position thereof.

add Q3

add c57

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